12/25/71

Dear John (and Sonia),

Such good news as yours warrants immediate felicitations. You will come to learn that Shelley put it all together in saying nothing in this world is single. The best!

Ours was in some ways simpler than yours. Lil and I, accompanied by her mother, went to the preacher who had pronounced the ritual over the mother. Later, when I decided, with Lil's concurrence, that it would be good from my baba to have a Jewish ceremony (because the family doctor had warned me against telling my orthodox family in the Bronx they'd make life intolerable for my mother), so we were married for years before they more than suspected), we had a separate and no less quiet ceremony, with my mother, the rabbi and his wife, and the two of us. Later, we went to the restaurant of an Italian friend for dinner, an extra added attraction to the second wedding. How many friends do you have who were married to each other twice with no intervening divorce?

Just remember (and I say this through the beard that would be gray if it existed) that it takes two to make it go, or keep it from going.

We had to go to Baltimore yesterday. After our business we went out to see Art. He looks great and has it better than ever. I didn't ask if happier, for can there be happiness in that business? But he looks untroubled.

Unless they scratch the Capp show (and can you imagine what they'll expose if they scratch HHH), I'll be there 1/15. I've been toying with the idea of coming up Friday the 14th, if any purpose would be served. This would make only one problem here, Lil's getting home that night, which she can do by cab. In any event, I have a noon appointment with Sanny, in his office, and I think you might want to be there. I fear he has let the statute of limitations run, a suspicion to which he hasn't responded. Don't let me forget to tell him that I've located commercial distribution of the fourth printing. One of Clay Shaw's lawyers, with whom I had a friendly meeting, had one when I was there last month. I think this means another case of mail fraud, but can you imagine the Mitchellisti prosecuting a case for me?

Thanks for the invite. Maybe I will want to accept. I'd planned to stay with Jerry Policoff, who has more or less adjusted to my snoring. Maybe I'll divide the personal abuse. Especially if he has school that night.

You should be having a good holiday. Let it be a good (many) year(s), too!

Our best,